

Magneto has lost the war against ordinary humans for which he sacrificed the well-being of his children. Now he is forced to watch his daughter Wanda, the Scarlet Witch, suffer a loss of control over both her powers and her grip on reality. Quicksilver, Wanda's brother Pietro, pleads with their estranged father to help her.

Mutant leader Charles Xavier, who is unable to help the Scarlet Witch, gathers the Avengers and the X-Men to decide how to proceed. The heroes are not convinced that killing Wanda is the only solution, so they travel to the mutant nation of Genosha to confront her, in the hope of discovering what it is that she wants.

When they get to the island, Wanda is missing, as are Magneto and Pietro.

Then the world burns to white.

When Wolverine awakes, he discovers that reality as he knew it is gone...

replaced by a society in which humans are the oppressed minority and mutants run the culture, ruling over all existing countries, religions and politics. A kingdom united under the House of M.

Psychic therapist Emma Frost and Scott Summers live happily in Connecticut.

Peter Parker is married to Gwen Stacy, and they have a young son, Richie.

New York City's Hell's Kitchen is widely known as Sapien Town, where the worst elements of normal humanity congregate, led by underworld overlord Luke Cage.

And Wolverine himself is the premiere operative of S.H.I.E.L.D.'s elite Red Guard unit, and is romantically involved with his fellow agent, Mystique. He escapes from the S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier, their flying mobile base, and tries to piece together what has happened. The rest of the Red Guard are sent after him and almost overwhelm him, but at the last moment, Logan is kidnapped by Cloak of Luke Cage's underground resistance...and finds himself held at arrow-point by the long-dead Avenger Hawkeye.

Wolverine, it turns out, is not the only person who remembers the way the world used to be. Young Layla Miller also remembers the world before the House of M, and can affect others so that they remember as well. Upon Wolverine's orders, the resistance travels to the apartment of Emma Frost-Summers, where, thanks to Layla, Emma "awakes" to the reality of the world around her.

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